

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1-11. (cancelled)

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12. (previously presented)      An apparatus for fabricating a thermoelectric material comprising:

        a container for mixing and heat-melting raw material having a predetermined composition;

        means for pouring the molten metal of the heat-melted raw material;

        and

        a rotating disk for scattering the poured molten metal;

        wherein the rotating disk has a disk and a stem, and the disk and the stem have a uniform integral structure made of silicon nitride or a material containing silicon nitride.

13. (previously presented)      The apparatus for fabricating a thermoelectric material as defined in claim 12, wherein the means for pouring the molten metal of the heat-melted raw material includes a funnel.

14. (previously presented)      The apparatus for fabricating a thermoelectric material as defined in claim 12, wherein the means for pouring the molten metal of the heat-melted raw material includes a pouring port.

15. (previously presented)      An apparatus for fabricating a thermoelectric material comprising:

    a container for mixing and heat-melting raw material having a predetermined composition;

    means for pouring the molten metal of the heat-melted raw material;

and

    a rotating disk for scattering the poured molten metal;

wherein the rotating disk has a disk and a stem, and the disk and the stem have a uniform integral structure made of  $\beta$ -sialon having the formula:

$$\text{Si}_{6-z}\text{N}_{8-z}\text{Al}_z\text{O}_z \quad \text{wherein } z \leq 3.8.$$

16. (canceled)